

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

East Germany

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ REPORT \_\_\_\_\_

Koethen Airfield

TOPIC \_\_\_\_\_ 25X1

EVALUATION \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OBTAINED \_\_\_\_\_ 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT \_\_\_\_\_ 25X1

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REFERENCES \_\_\_\_\_

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_  
This is UNEVALUATED

1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Koethen airfield between 6 and 20 September 1954:

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6 September. Between 2100 and 2400, individual flights were made by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s at an altitude of 2,000 meters.

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7 September. Aerobatics and dives were made at an altitude of 3,000 meters.

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13 September. Between 0900 and 1300, 22 jet fighters were being towed from the western and northern hangars to the take-off point. Sixteen additional jet fighters were parked in front of the northern hangars which were open and vacant. The air activity observed included firing practices at towed sleeve targets by aircraft which individually took off at intervals of 10 minutes, cross-country flights by aircraft fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks, and take-offs in formations of two and four in rapid succession. The landings were made after 50 minutes. Four MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s made horizontal 15-minute flights underneath the cloud base. Other aircraft disappeared above the ceiling, but the noises of aircraft practicing aerobatics or dives were heard. Air activity was discontinued at 1200. During the flights, the Kniferest-type radar set rotated.

20 September. Between 1100 and 1200, no air activity was observed. A number of jet fighters were parked in the revetments in the southeastern section of the field. Six MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were parked in front of the northern hangars. The airfield seemed to be on the alert for a maneuver since the parked aircraft were covered with camouflage nets. 1

2. A radio installation of one mast and a radio truck were observed at the take-off point on the landing field. Another radio installation of one mast which was braced by 3 guy wires was located in the southeastern corner of the field. A Kniferest-type radar set and a Fishnet-type set were observed at the southern edge of the landing field. On 20 September, the radio installations were camouflaged

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by branches and nets. 2

3. An AA gun emplacement of 6 x 37-mm AA guns was observed in the southeastern corner of the field. 3

4. Vehicular traffic at the field involved trucks

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5. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field between 14 and 26 September:

14 September. Flying was practiced between 1700 and about midnight. The sound of jet fighters flying over the town was continuously heard and two searchlights were observed. The aircraft flew without position lights.

15 September. Between 1230 and 1400, there was intensive air activity at the field. Six take-offs and landings by jet fighters were observed. Six MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s arranged in a row and at large intervals were parked in the eastern section of the landing field. Their noses pointed to the west. After the landing, one aircraft immediately taxied to this dispersal area and was refueled there. Six jet fighters were parked in front of the western hangar and 16 additional aircraft of the same type in front of the eastern hangars.

17 September. There was air activity throughout the day and at night. The flights during the night were conducted above the clouds while two searchlights were in operation. No position lights were observed on the aircraft.

18 September. Between 0700 and 0810, aircraft were observed aloft. There was intensive activity on the eastern dispersal area, where 27 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were arranged in a row with their noses pointing to the west. Eight jet fighters with their noses pointing to the south were parked in a row on the dispersal area in the northwestern section of the field. The first aircraft took off at 0815. Two radio trucks and a truck were parked in front of the revetments in the northeastern corner of the field. Eight tank trucks and other trucks were seen between the revetments. Nine jet fighters were parked in no particular pattern in front of the eastern hangars. An aircraft dummy which was painted like the other MiG-15s was observed between the eastern hangars. Cabin windows which were smaller than those of jet fighters were identified on the dummy.

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23 September. Throughout the day except between 1500 and 1545 aircraft were observed aloft. An individual MiG-15 was parked approximately in the middle of the field south of the western hangar. No personnel were seen near the aircraft. Six jet fighters were parked in front of the southeastern hangar and 8 additional aircraft of the same type in front of the northeastern hangar. About 2200, two MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s practiced flying. No searchlights were in operation.

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26 September. Between 0945 and 1100, the northeastern hangar was closed and two MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were parked in front of it. A jet fighter in need of repair was observed in front of the southeastern hangar. An alert formation of 4 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s [redacted] was parked in the southeastern corner of the field. Two tank trucks and 1 truck were seen near the new house in the vicinity of the runway. No aircraft dummies were observed at the field.

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6. During the period of observation, the radio and LF installation was located between the fence and the revetments in the southern section of the landing field. On 23 September, a radio truck with an umbrella-type antenna was observed in the southeastern corner of the field.
7. Construction work was under way near the fuel dump in the northeastern corner of the field. A large gasoline tank was lifted and placed on blocks.
1. [redacted] Comment. Koethen airfield is still occupied by two fighter regiments.
2. [redacted] Comment. The camouflaging of aircraft as well as radio and radar installations is connected with the fall maneuvers. The radio truck with umbrella-type antenna, observed near the take-off point, is probably used for VHF traffic.
3. [redacted] Comment. The AA gun emplacement in the southeastern section of the field has repeatedly been reported.

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